INFORMATION PACKET SERIES

BANGLADESH

[IP/BGD/93.001]

NOVEMBER 1992

All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available.

PRODUCED BY:

INS RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER 425 I Street, NW (ULLICO BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

DISCLAIMER

The July 27, 1990 Regulations, "Aliens and Nationality: Asylum and Withholding of Deportation Procedures," mandated the creation of a new corps of Asylum Officers to provide an initial, nonadversarial adjudication of asylum claims. Asylum Officers use asylum law, interviews with asylum applicants, and relevant information on country conditions to determine the merits of individual claims for asylum.

The Resource Information Center was created to assist Asylum Officers domestically, and Immigration Officers determining refugee status overseas, by collecting and disseminating credible and objective information on human rights conditions. As specified in the Regulations (8 CFR 208.12), such information may be obtained from the Department of Justice, the Department of State, or "other credible sources, such as international organizations, private voluntary organizations, or academic institutions."

Resource Information Center Information Packets are one of the means by which information reflecting a wide range of credible sources is presented to Asylum and Immigration Officers. The views expressed in Resource Information Center Information Packets do not necessarily represent official U.S. Government opinion, nor do they reflect U.S. foreign policy concerns. This Information Packet was compiled on the basis of publicly available information, analyses, and comment. All sources are cited. This Information Packet cannot be, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to the country surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any claim to refugee status or asylum. Updates to this Information Packet may be made from time to time.

GENERAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

Detailed Table of Contents

General Information and Major Country Reports

Political Parties

Awami League

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

Bangladesh Worker's Party

Jatiya Party

Ershad Family/Supporters

Arrest of Golam Azam and Popular Reaction

University Violence/Student Branches of Political Parties

Bangladesh Chhatra League/Bangladesh Student League

Islami Chhatra Shibir/Islamic Student Front

Detention, Torture, Prisons, Special Powers Act

Tribal Groups and Bihari Refugees

Burmese Refugees, Rohingyas, Tribal and Indigenous groups

Religious Minorities

Journalists and the Press, Special Laws

Map

DETAILED TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information and Major Country Reports

Central Intelligence Agency, <u>The World Fact Book, 1991</u> (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1991), pp. 25,26.

Amnesty International USA, <u>Amnesty International Report 1992</u> (New York: Amnesty International, 1992), pp. 64-65.

Freedom House, <u>Freedom in the World: Political Rights & Civil Liberties</u> (New York: Freedom House, 1992), pp. 100-102.

S. Kamaluddin, "Politics of Violence," Far Eastern Economic Review, 10 September 1992, p. 30.

"Begum Zia's Burden," The Economist, 4 April 1992, pp. 35-36.

"A Government at Last," The Economist, 23 March 1991, p. 38.

United State Department of State, <u>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1991</u> (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, February 1991), pp. 1353-1366.

Political Parties

Awami League

"Information on the Awami League and Affiliated Student Organization," Response to Information Request, Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC], 12 May 1989, "BGD002."

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

"Information on Whether Outstanding Arrest Warrants Against BNP Supporters or Members Which Were Issued by Ershad's Regime Are Still Being Enforced and Whether Arrest Warrants Were Issued on False Charges or Were Politically Motivated," Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 26 March 1992, "BGD10484."

"Bangladesh: Political Violence Could Undermine Democracy," InterPress Service, 24 January 1992 (as reported in the Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC] Indexed Media Review, Vol. III, Week of January 20-26, 1992).

"Bangladesh: Do the Universities Have a Protected Status in Any Way? i.e. Are They Considered Autonomous Bodies Where the Police Has No Jurisdiction?" Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 19 December 1990, "BGD7399."

Bangladesh Chhatra League/Bangladesh Student League

"Dhaka University Tense After Student 'Rampage'," Hong Kong, AFP, 30 March 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 30 March 1992, pp. 38-39).

"Information on the Bangladesh Chhatra League," Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 15 January 1990, "BGD3677."

Islami Chhatra Shibir/Islamic Student Front

"Bangladesh: Political and Civil Unrest," Reuters, 27 October 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

"46 More Suspected Terrorists Arrested in Bangladesh," The Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 12 May 1992 (as reported in the Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC] Indexed Media Review, Vol. III, Week of May 11-18, 1992).

"200 Injured in Bangladesh Student Clash," AFP, 20 April 1992 (as reported in the Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC] <u>Indexed Media Review</u>, Vol. III, Week of April 14-20, 1992).

"Information on the Islamic Student Front: Extortion of Money From Shop Owners in Dhaka to Finance the Group, Intimidation Tactics, Relationship Between Islamic Student Front and the Government, the Army and the Police," Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 1 August 1990, "BGD6547."

"Pro-Government Student Leader Shot Dead in Dhaka," Reuter Library Report, 30 August 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

Detention, Torture, Prisons, Special Powers Act

"3,000 People in Bangladesh Jails Without Trial: Report," AFP, 6 May 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

Amnesty International, "Bangladesh: Reports of Torture and Possible Extrajudicial Executions" (London: Amnesty International, March 1992), "ASA 13/02/92."

"Penalties for Engaging in Political Activities in Bangladesh," Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 3 November 1990, "BGD0593."

Tribal Groups And Bihari Refugees

"Tribal Rebels Kill Six in Southeast Bangladesh," Reuters, 27 February 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

"Outlawed Group Kills 5 in Rangamati," Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network, 30 May 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 2 June 1992, p. 46).

Map taken from report by Minority Rights Group, Ltd., "The Biharis of Bangladesh," January 1982, p. 6.

"General Situation of Biharis, Whether They Can Get Bangladeshi Citizenship, Carried Out A Series of Demonstrations Between 1982 and 1985, And Have to Reside in Refugee Camps, 1972-1990," Response to Information Request, Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre

Burmese Refugees, Rohingyas, Tribal and Indigenous Groups

"Three Dead in Clash" (Burmese Refugee Camps), AFP Hong Kong, 25 September 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 30 September 1992, p. 37).

"Burmese Rohingya Refugees Take Up Arms," AFP Hong Kong, 16 July 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 16 July 1992, p. 54).

"U.N. Not to Aid Repatriation Effort," AFP Hong Kong, 13 May 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 15 May 1992, pp. 38-39).

"Bangladesh Starts Fencing Burmese Refugee Camps," AFP, 12 July 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

"The Arakan Exodus" (from Burma), FOX Eastern Economic Review, 26 March 1992, p. 51.

"Indian 'Push Back' Causes Panic in Border Areas," <u>The Bangladesh Observer</u>, 22 September 1992, (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 25 September 1992, p. 31).

"Bangladesh: Government Gets Aid Amid Human Rights Abuse Charges," Inter Press Service, 22 April 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

Amnesty International, "Reprisal Killings in Logong, Chittagong Hill Tracks, in April, 1992" (London: Amnesty International, May 1992), "ASA 13/04/92."

"Tension Builds Over Bangladesh Ethnic Massacre," Reuters, 21 April 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

"Bangladesh: Massacre Sparks Off Anti-Government Protests," Inter Press Service, 19 May 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

Religious Minorities

"Information on the Work and Activities of Christian Missionaries in Bangladesh, in particular, the Southern Baptist Convent Missionaries, and the Attitude of the Bangladesh Government Toward Christian Missionaries in Bangladesh,' Response to Information Request, Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC], 25 July 1991, "BGD9133."

"Discrimination Against the Christian Minority," Response to Information Request, Immigration and Refugee Board Documentation Centre [IRBDC], March 1991, "BGD8172."

Journalists and the Press, Special Laws

"Opposition Attacks New Antiterrorism Decree," AFP Hong Kong, 16 September 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report:NES</u>, 16 September 1992, pp. 38-39).

"Bangladesh Journalists Demand Resignation of Top Officials," AFP, 22 June 1992 (as reported on NEXIS database).

"Journalists, Photographers Hurt," All India Radio, 21 June 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: NES</u>, 30 June 1992, p. 58).

"Body Formed to Resist Attacks on Newspapers," <u>The New Nation [Dhaka]</u>, 30 March 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: JPRS-NES</u>, 1 June 1992, p. 41).

"Political Affiliation of Publications - Dainik Khabar, Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Janara and the Weekly Tilikana Which is Published in New York," Response to Information Request, IRBDC, 13 March 1993.

Map

Richard F. Nyrop, "Area Handbook for Bangladesh" (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975), p. xviii.